

ACTIVITY WIPE DISPENSER AND MULTI-PACK ARRANGEMENT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention:

This invention generally relates to an activity wipe dispenser and multi-pack arrangement for use during a variety of different activities; and, more particularly, to an activity wipe dispenser adapted for attachment to different articles and for storage of used wipes as well as to a multi-pack arrangement comprising a plurality of activity wipe dispensers each having different and complementary active components particularly useful in connection with different aspects of a specific activity.

2. Background of the Invention:

Pre-moistened sheets, towelettes, or wet wipes, such as for cleaning hands and the like, are made from a porous sheet moistened with suitable wiping solutions which can include functional ingredients. For example, U.S. Patent 4,904,524 to Yoh discloses such functional ingredients to include: sun screen, insect repellent, lubricating shaving lotion, as well as cleaning and waxing solutions for furniture. Thus, wet wipes can be used to clean surfaces, apply topical lotions and clean adult and baby skin to name a few uses. They are used during a variety of activities, particularly when access to washroom facilities or other facilities are not available, such as, for example, while traveling in an automobile; while engaged in sports activities (e.g. tennis, golf, baseball, etc.); or while participating in camping, hiking, picnicking and related activities.

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1 However, typically, each different type of wet wipe is sold individually in dispenser which
2 is not particularly adapted for use during the noted variety of different activities.

3 Dispensers for wet wipes typically comprise one of two general types of packaging. The
4 first type packaging dispenses individual sheets from a stack of sheets and the other
5 type of packaging dispenses sheets from a continuous roll of sheets having perforations
6 which separate the individual wet wipes. Containers associated with the continuous roll
7 type configuration, typically comprise a hollow, plastic cylinder dispenser. Such
8 containers are commonly semi-rigid and manufactured from materials such as
9 polyethylene and/or polypropylene. The container usually has a lid or cover that is
10 attached by a hinge or is mated with the container by a threaded connection. It is also
11 known to include a dispensing port which allows for the removal of a wipe without
12 requiring complete removal of the lid. Typically the dispensing port is designed to
13 create tension in the wipe as it is withdrawn so that the wipe separates from the roll at
14 the perforations as it is pulled through the port. However, known packaging
15 arrangements for wet wipes do not include an arrangement for storing used wet wipes,
16 which is problematic when there are no disposal facilities close by.

17 In addition to the foregoing, it is known to provide a harness for hitching a wet wipe
18 dispenser onto a toilet tissue roll holder, such as disclosed by U.S. Patent 4,978,095 to
19 Phillips, or to provide a special dispensing system for wet wipes that includes a handle
20 for carrying the dispenser. However, typically wet wipe dispensers are not equipped to
21 be attached to disparate articles, such a golf bag or tackle box, which would make it
22 much easier to use the wet wipes during extracurricular activities such as at sports

1 events or while engaging in sport related activities such as golf, tennis, boating
2 camping, fishing or the like.

3 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

4 Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an activity wipe dispenser
5 and multi-pack arrangement that overcomes the deficiencies of the prior art.

6 Yet another object of the present invention is to provide an activity wipe dispenser
7 adapted for attachment to different articles and for storage of used wipes.

8 Still another object of the present invention is to provide a multi-pack arrangement of
9 activity wipe dispensers wherein the wipes contained by each of the dispensers have
10 different and complementary active components useful for a particular activity.

11 Still another object of the present invention is to provide an activity wipe dispenser
12 which is easy to use during a variety of different activities.

13 Another object of the present invention is to provide an activity wipe dispenser that can
14 be used in an environmentally friendly manner.

15 One important and advantageous feature of the present invention is that it does not
16 required a special dedicated dispenser for each different activity for which the wet wipes
17 are particularly adapted for use.

18 To accomplish these and other objects as well as advantageous features of the present
19 invention, there is provided an activity wipe dispenser for dispensing wipes which,
20 according to one embodiment thereof, comprises: a container for containing a plurality

1 of wet wipes; a lid; a dispensing port through which a wet wipe is dispensed; an
2 arrangement for storing used wet wipes; and means for attaching the container to
3 disparate articles.

4 According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a multi-pack
5 arrangement of activity wipe dispensers wherein each activity wipe dispenser contains
6 wipes with a different and complementary active component particularly useful in
7 connection with different aspects of a specific activity, each activity wipe dispenser
8 having a disposal chamber for receiving used wipes. According to one embodiment of
9 the multi-pack arrangement, each activity wipe dispenser further comprises: a container
10 for containing a plurality of wipes, the container having a closed bottom, sides and an
11 open top; a lid for closing the open top of the container; a dispensing port through which
12 wipes are dispensed; and attachment means for attaching the container to disparate articles.

13 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

14 Figure 1 is a front, perspective view of one embodiment of an activity wipe dispenser of
15 the present invention;

16 Figure 2 is a front, perspective view of another embodiment of an activity wipe
17 dispenser of the present invention;

18 Figure 3 is a front, perspective view of yet other embodiment of an activity wipe
19 dispenser of the present invention;

20 Figure 4 is perspective view of one embodiment of the multi-pack arrangement of
21 activity wipe dispensers in accordance with the present invention; and

Figure 5 is perspective view of the activity wipes dispensed by the dispenser of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

Referring to Figure, one embodiment of an activity wipe dispenser for dispensing wipes is illustrated generally at 11. The dispenser 11 comprises a container 13 for containing a plurality of wipes 31 (best seen in Figure 5), the container 13 having a closed bottom 15, sides 17 and an open top 19. A lid 21 is provided for closing the open top 19 of the container 13. Typically, the lid 21 has a dispensing port 23 through which wipes are dispensed. The dispenser 11 is provided with a disposal chamber, generally indicated at 25, for receiving used wipes. Also shown in the embodiment of Figure 1, the dispenser 11 is provided with an attachment means 27 for attaching the dispenser 11 to disparate articles, for example, items typically found when engaging in such activities such as boating, camping, sporting events, hunting, tennis, golf and fishing. Such items include, but are not limited to: golf bags, fishing equipment including tackle boxes, gym bags, hunting equipment, camping equipment, sporting equipment and the like.

The container 13 comprises, for example, a hollow cylinder which is semi-rigid and manufactured from, for example, plastic materials. These plastic materials comprise at least one of polyethylene and polypropylene. Referring to Figure 5, the wipes 31 comprise a continuous roll of sheet material 30 having perforations 33 which separate individual wipes 31 as best seen in Figure 5.

In the embodiment illustrated by Figure 1, the container 13 is a hollow cylinder and the disposal chamber 25 by a complementary telescoping hollow cylinder 35 which slides

1 over the sides 17 of the container 13 at the closed bottom 15 of the container 13 to form
2 an expandable disposal chamber space A. The telescoping cylinder 35 is provided with
3 a disposal port 37 through which used wipes are placed into the disposal chamber
4 space A.

5 Referring to Figure 2, an alternative embodiment of the dispenser 11 is illustrated
6 wherein the disposal chamber 25 is formed by a hollow cylinder 39 which is hinged at
7 41 to the closed bottom 15 of the container 13. Latching means 43 are provided for
8 latching an unhinged side 45 of the cylinder 38 to the closed bottom 15 of the
9 container 13. In the embodiment illustrated by Figure 2, the hollow cylinder 39 has a
10 diameter equal to that of the container 13 so that when the disposal chamber 25 is
11 latched at the bottom 15 of the container 13, the container 13 forms a one continuous
12 cylinder having substantially the same diameter along its entire length. The hollow
13 cylinder 39 of the disposal chamber 25 illustrated by Figure 2 has flexible and resilient,
14 spaced ribs 47 that span a width of the cylinder 39, the flexible and resilient ribs 47
15 deflecting to receive and hold used wipes in the disposal chamber 25.

16 Referring to Figure 3, yet another embodiment of the activity wipe dispenser 11 of the
17 present invention is illustrated wherein the disposal chamber 25 comprises a bag 49
18 having a zip-lock top 51, a bottom 53 of the bag 49 being attached to the side 17 of the
19 container 13. In this arrangement, bag 49 is adapted to be wrapped around the sides
20 17 of the container 13 when displayed for sale or when not in use.

21 Figure 4 illustrates one embodiment of a multi-pack arrangement, generally indicated at
22 55, of activity wipe dispensers 11 wherein each activity wipe dispenser 11 contains

1 wipes with a different and complementary active component particularly useful in
2 connection with different aspects of a specific activity, each activity wipe dispenser
3 having a disposal chamber for receiving used wipes, such as those disclosed in Figures
4 1-3 of the present application. The dispensers 11 of the multi-pack arrangement 55 are
5 held together in a group by a packaging retainer 57 similar to packaging retainers used
6 to hold together a six pack can of drinks or the like as is well know in the packaging arts.
7 The packaging retainer 57 is provided, for example, with finger holes 59 to permit easy
8 carrying of the multi-pack arrangement 55.

9 According to various embodiments of the multi-pack arrangement 55, each activity wipe
10 dispenser 11 comprises: a container for containing a plurality of wipes, the container
11 having a closed bottom, sides and an open top; a lid for closing the open top of the
12 container; a dispensing port through which wipes are dispensed; and attachment means for
13 attaching the container to disparate articles as shown in Figures 1 through 3 of the
14 present application.

15 The specific activities for which the multi-pack arrangement is useful include, but are not
16 limited to: boating, camping, sporting events, hunting, tennis, golf, auto care, home care,
17 backpacking, cycling, skiing, child care, patient care, custodial work activities and
18 fishing. The types of active ingredients include, but are not limited to: suntan lotion,
19 sunscreen, insect repellent, deodorants, surface cleaning solutions, vinyl treatment
20 solutions for extending the life of a vinyl surface, glass cleaning solutions, scented
21 solutions (both fragrant as well as animal scents for use as lures during hunting or
22 repellents during camping and/or backpacking), gun oil, shaving lotion, lubricants,

1 surface treatment compounds such as paste wax, polish, furniture oil and the like, skin
2 lotion, anti-bacterial soap, antibiotics, beauty aids, fungicides, and antiperspirants.

3 EXAMPLE 1

4 A multi-pack arrangement for hunting, packing and/or camping may include any
5 combination of the following active ingredients: suntan lotion, sunscreen, insect
6 repellent, deodorants, surface cleaning solutions, glass cleaning solutions, scented
7 solutions such as animal scents for use as lures or repellents, gun oil, shaving lotion,
8 lubricants, skin lotion, anti-bacterial soap, antibiotics, and antiperspirants to suppress
9 the scent of the hunter

10 EXAMPLE 2

11 A multi-pack arrangement for sporting activities such as golf and tennis may include any
12 combination of the following active ingredients: suntan lotion, sunscreen, insect
13 repellent, deodorants, surface cleaning solutions, skin lotion, anti-bacterial soap,
14 antibiotics, and antiperspirants,

15 EXAMPLE 3

16 A multi-pack arrangement for fishing and boating activities may include any combination
17 of the following active ingredients: suntan lotion, sunscreen, insect repellent,
18 deodorants, surface cleaning solutions, vinyl treatment solutions for extending the life of
19 a vinyl surface, glass cleaning solutions, scented solutions shaving lotion, lubricants,
20 surface treatment compounds such as paste wax, polish, furniture oil and the like, skin
21 lotion, anti-bacterial soap, antibiotics, fungicides, and antiperspirants,

EXAMPLE 4

A multi-pack arrangement for home and/or automobile care may include any combination of the following active ingredients: deodorants, surface cleaning solutions, vinyl treatment solutions for extending the life of a vinyl surface, glass cleaning solutions, fragrant scented solutions, surface treatment compounds such as paste wax, polish, furniture oil and the like, anti-bacterial soap, fungicides, and antiperspirants,

EXAMPLE 5

A multi-pack arrangement for child care, patient care, or personal care may include any combination of the following active ingredients: suntan lotion, sunscreen, insect repellent, deodorants, surface cleaning solutions, scented solutions, shaving lotion, skin lotion, anti-bacterial soap, antibiotics, beauty aids, fungicides, and antiperspirants.

Although the present invention has been described in terms of specific exemplary embodiments, it will be appreciated that various modifications and alterations might be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as specified in the following claims.